

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTO 02942 171449Z
ACTION SS-25

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O 171415Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 987
INFO US DEL OASGA GRENADA IMMEDIATE 01

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2942

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, DR, US
SUBJECT: GODR EFFORT TO COUNTER LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT U.S. AND
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC DIVERGED ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AT GRENADA

1. FOLLOWING WAS DRAFTED BY AMBASSADOR BEFORE HE DEPARTED POST
THIS MORNING.

2. AT 11 P.M. LAST NIGHT RAFAEL BELLO ANDINO, PRIVATE SECRETARY
TO PRESIDENT BALAGUER, CAME TO SEE ME AT PRESIDENT'S INSTRUCTION,
HE SAID, TO SHOW ME CABLE FROM FON SEC JIMENEZ REPORTING HIS
BILATERAL TALK WITH SECRETARY VANCE. SUBSTANCE OF CABLE WAS THAT
TALK WAS VERY CORDIAL AND THAT SECRETARY VANCE CONVEYED WARM
GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO PRESIDENT BALAGUER. FURTHER,
THAT SECRETARY VANCE MENTIONED APPROVINGLY PROGRESS MADE BY
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN RECENT YEARS. FINALLY, THAT SECRETARY
VANCE HAD EVINCED SURPRISE UPON HEARING THAT DOMINICAN PRESS WAS
REPORTING THAT DOMINICAN REPUBLIC DIVERGED FROM U.S. ON HUMAN
RIGHTS ISSUE, FOR HE THOUGHT BOTH GOVERNMENTS UNITED ON QUESTION.

3. BELLO SAID THAT GODR STRONGLY DESIRED TO PUBLISH TEXT OF
JIMENEZ CABLE AND PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT WAS TO INQUIRE AS TO
WHETHER THERE WOULD BE ANY OBJECTION TO DOING SO. I CAUTIONED
BELLO THAT BILATERAL TALKS BETWEEN FOREIGN SECRETARIES WERE
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NORMALLY CONSIDERED PRIVILEGED, UNLESS AGREEMENT HAD BEEN
REACHED BEFOREHAND BETWEEN THE PARTICIPANTS TO MAKE ALL OR
PART OF IT PUBLIC. I ADDED THAT IF, NOTWITHSTANDING NORMAL
PRACTICE, GODR DECIDED TO PUBLISH JIMENEZ'S MESSAGE, I WOULD
UNDERTAKE TO EXPLAIN THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

4. BELLO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT DEPARTMENT MIGHT FIND APPROPRIATE

OCCASION TO MENTION PUBLICLY U.S. AND DOMINICAN IDENTITY OF
VIEWS RE HUMAN RIGHTS.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH PRESIDENTIAL AND OTHER ELECTIONS ARE
STILL ELEVEN MONTHS AWAY (MAY 1978), LOCAL POLITICAL
MANEUVERING AND KEEN PUBLIC INTEREST GIVE IMPRESSION THAT
ELECTIONS ARE IMMINENT. JUNE 15 EDITION OF WIDELY READ
EL CARIBE CARRIED TOP HEADLINE THAT U.S. AND DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC DIVERGED ON HUMAN RIGHTS STANCE AT GRENADA. SAME
STORY MENTIONED THAT IN CONGRESSIONAL SUBCOMMITTEE SUGGESTION
HAD BEEN MADE TO INCLUDE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN LIST OF
COUNTRIES WHOSE HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES WARRANTED EXCLUSION FROM
MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, BUT THAT SUGGESTION WAS
REBUFFED. CONCLUSION THAT AVERAGE READER COULD REASONABLY
REACH WAS THAT U.S. AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC WERE AT ODDS AND
THAT GODR RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS MIGHT BE INADEQUATE IN
U.S. VIEW. IN CURRENT CHARGED POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE WHERE
RELATIONS WITH U.S. PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE, PRESIDENT BALAGUER'S
CONCERN THAT EL CARIBE STORY COULD PROVIDE POLITICAL OPPOSITION
WITH TELLING AMMUNITION IS REASONABLE. PUBLISHING JIMENEZ'S
CABLE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY CLARIFY THE SITUATION HERE. I EXPECT
THEREFORE THAT IT WILL PROBABLY BE MADE PUBLIC.

6. I AM PERSUADED THAT THERE IS NO IMPORTANT DIVERGENCE OF
VIEW BETWEEN U.S. POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THAT IF PRESIDENT
BALAGUER. SINCE THE REPORT TO CONGRESS REGARDING TH STATUS
OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (WHICH APPARENTLY
CAUSED NO CONCERN IN WASHINGTON), PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAS TAKEN
A NUMBER OF STEPS TO IMPROVE HIS PERFORMANCE IN THIS AREA,
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INCLUDING REINSTATEMENT TO HIS CHIEF OPPOSITIONIST, PENA GOMEZ,
OF HIS RIGHT TO SPEAK ON THE RADIO. ALL OF THESE STEPS ARE
A MATTER OF RECORD IN THE DEPARTMENT. ACCORDINGLY, I PERCEIVE
NO OBJECTION TO SOME U.S. OFFICIAL FULFILLING HOPE EXPRESSED
PARA 4 ABOVE. SUCH A STEP ON OUR PART WOULD CERTAINLY CLEAR
THE AIR HERE.
AXELROD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Control Number: n/a
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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